



WAfamily pathways network

WA Family Pathways Network eBulletin

KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES IN WA FAMILY LAW

JULY 2016

Greetings from the Chair

by Kate Jeffries

Hello from WAFPN! I'm pleased to write my first greetings as Chair of the WA Family Pathways Network for the monthly eBulletin. It's going to be an exciting year ahead, and I am looking forward to stepping up from the role of Deputy Chair to lead WAFPN over the next 12 months.

I would like to thank Kathryn Lawrence for all the support she has given to WAFPN in her role as Chair over the last two years. Kathryn has worked tirelessly in this voluntary role, and has been instrumental in supporting my smooth transition into this position.

I would also like to thank Rhonda Griffiths for taking this journey with me in the role of Deputy Chair to support the objectives of WAFPN. You can find out more about Rhonda and myself in this eBulletin.

The new financial year is well underway, and WAFPN has recently undertaken our strategic planning for the coming year. We are looking forward to getting our new website up and running, planning an excellent annual conference and other great events throughout the year.

WAFPN want to support professionals navigating family law to best support individuals and families you see. We would like your feedback on how we can best support you and the sector through collaboration, information and referral pathways, and sector training and development. Contact our WAFPN Network Development Officer, Jane Azzopardi with any feedback or queries you may have jane.azzopardi@relationshipswa.org.au



That's all from me, thanks for staying in touch with WAFPN, and I look forward to seeing you at the next event!

Meet our new Chair!

Kate Jeffries WAFPN Chair

Kate Jeffries is the Director of Family Violence & Intervention Services for Communicare Inc. She has worked in the Community Sector in both Australia and New Zealand for 20 years, with a core focus on Family and Domestic Violence since joining Communicare in 2006. Kate is a passionate advocate for people impacted by Family and Domestic Violence, and has worked directly with clients in Perpetrator, Victim and Children Services. When considering the bigger picture, Kate is focused on improving collaboration between Family and Domestic Violence Victim and Perpetrator Services, along with working proactively in a system responding to Family and Domestic Violence and improving safety for families living together, separating or separated.

Communicare is a not-for-profit organisation operating since 1977. Its core focus is community inclusion and community safety. Communicare creates futures throughout Western Australia communities by providing Children and Family Services, Cultural Services, Employment Services, Communicare Academy and Education and Training Services and Family Violence & Intervention Services. To learn more about the programs in each of these services go to www.communicare.org.au

Kate is responsible for the service delivery of Communicare's Family and Domestic Violence Services.

This service directly supports Victims towards choice and safety; and Perpetrator towards creating safety through behaviour change. Referrals are accepted throughout Western Australia with offices based in multiple locations across Perth and in both the Midwest and Southwest Regions. Kate works closely with the Western Australian Family Court providing family and domestic violence assessment and program eligibility reports; the Department of Corrective Services to deliver community and prison based program interventions; and the Department of Child Protection and Family Support delivering Tuart House, a women and children's refuge; Victim Support Outreach; the innovative Communicare Breathing Space and Safe at Home Domestic Violence Outreach – Perpetrator Response. A number of these programs are participating in national research on Family and Domestic Violence and Fathering outcomes.

Kate is a registered Psychologist and a Psychology Board Approved Supervisor and Trainer. Kate is a senior representative on the Family Violence Advisory Board, the Family Violence Officer Level Group and recently joined the WA Family Court Reference Group.



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Our Aim

Improve collaboration and coordination between organisations operating in the Family Law system

To assist separating families obtain appropriate services



Meet our new Deputy Chair!

Rhonda Griffiths **WAFPN Deputy Chair**

Rhonda Griffiths has been a member of the Steering Committee of WAFPN for a number of years, as representative of the Family Law Practitioners Association of Western Australia or FLPA (pronounced flapa). Rhonda is a lawyer of long standing and is a member of the Council of FLPA.

FLPA represents family lawyers across the state with a membership of close to 500 public sector and private sector lawyers. The association provides continuing legal education training for family lawyers. It is the state representative body in relation to questions of family law, making submissions from time to time to government. Most recently FLPA has presented a Submission to the federal Family Law Council enquiry into complex family law matters and to the WA state government in relation to the issue of caveat lodgement.

Rhonda has worked in well-known private law firms and for periods at the Legal Aid Commission, Aboriginal Legal Service and the Western Australian Law Reform Commission (on a consultation concerning medical treatment for intellectually challenged children). She was a member of a Human Research Ethics Committee for many years.

In her recent role as a director of a private law firm Rhonda became and remains a member of Collaborative Professionals WA, a group of lawyers developing collaborative process for family law dispute resolution. She is also an advocate of mediation processes having taken part in many mediations. In the complex matters that are not suited to these processes Rhonda has had extensive experience in hotly contested litigation in the Family Court at all levels.

After a break from practice Rhonda will be returning to a role as a senior lawyer at a private law firm Bowen Buchbinder Vilensky continuing the practice of family law.

A matter of concern to Rhonda is the number of litigants appearing in the Family Court as unrepresented parties and the circumstance that funding for legal services is so limited.

The challenge for the non-legal and legal family law sector is to meet the needs of ever more complex and troubled families, where funding for services struggles to meet those properly requiring assistance.

As the recently elected Deputy Chair of the Steering Committee Rhonda looks forward to continuing her involvement with the Pathways Network.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Upcoming training and networking opportunities

If you are running a training event and would like it included in our next eBulletin please contact

WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationships.wa.gov.au

National Mediation Conference 2016

Early bird registration for the National Mediation Conference 2016 closes July 4.

This year's National Mediation Conference theme is: "Thought, Innovation and Creativity: The Next Decade". It will showcase: what we know and how we know it; think about our thinking; reflect on how we innovate, educate and train practitioners across the wide spectrum from self determination to determinative processes; how we can become more flexible and creatively facilitate processes in response to the diverse needs of our clients to provide a future of best practice in all we do to manage our own and other peoples disputes.

11-15 September 2016
Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre
2684 – 2690 Gold Coast Highway
Broadbeach, QLD
Full early bird registration \$890

For more information or to register visit
<http://www.mediationconference.com.au/>

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts AFCC Australian Chapter Third Annual Conference

This year's AFCC theme is 'Assessing and determining children's best interests in the flood of family violence claims'.

18-20 August 2016
Brisbane Conference and Entertainment Centre
Southbank, Brisbane
Early bird registration \$760

For more information or to register visit <http://afccnet.org.au/afcc-2016-conference/>

WALK IN THEIR SHOES TOURS

WAFPN's popular family court tours fill up fast! This is a fantastic opportunity to experience the pathways families take when attending the Family Court of WA.

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST TO ATTEND
jane.azzopardi@relationships.wa.gov.au

The Law Council of Australia: 17th National Family Law Conference

The 17th Biennial National Family Law Conference will be held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre from 18-21 October 2016.

The three-day professional program starts on the Wednesday morning (19 October 2016) and continues until the Friday afternoon.

A diverse conference program will provide delegates with topical and practical information to take back to their daily family law practice, as well as sessions exploring new concepts and thinking about family law.

From the Welcome Reception on the Tuesday evening to the Gala Ball on the Friday night, delegates can also look forward to plenty of opportunities for networking, with the social program showcasing the world's most liveable city.

18-21 October 2016
Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
Early bird registration from \$300

For further information and registration please visit www.familylaw2016.com.au. Early bird registration closes 29 July 2016

The latest contributions to evidence based practice in family law

If you are undertaking research in the field of family law that you think may be of interest to WAFPN members please contact us to have it included in our eBulletin

WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationshipswa.org.au

Interviewing of Children for Family Law Matters: A Review

This study is a literature review of publications concerning the purpose and practice of child interviews in family law matters. Specifically, this review is structured around the following questions: (a) what is sought from interviews with children for family law matters; (b) what capacity do children have to provide reliable information; and (c) how should children and how children are currently being interviewed in the family law context.

Link to abstract:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ap.12193/abstract>

Tuoy-Smith, K. M., & Powell, M. B. (2016). Interviewing of Children for Family Law Matters: A Review. Australian Psychologist.

'Quality' contact post-separation/divorce: A review of the literature

Concern with the impact on children of discontinued parent-child relationships

following parental separation or divorce has resulted in a depth of empirical knowledge in the maintenance of those relationships through the medium of 'contact'. While research consistently demonstrates that post-separation/divorce parenting arrangements work best when they are informally arranged between two parents who are committed to making those plans work in the interests of their children, the emotive nature of the separation/divorce experience for many families may demand formal and legal regulation. Research with families involved in post-separation/divorce contact fails to identify a solitary magic ingredient that makes contact work or not work; rather a wide range of factors which operate interactively, interdependently and dynamically, with the attitudes, actions and interactions of the key family players shaping contact and determining its quality. This paper provides a critical review of the international literature on post-separation/divorce contact, identifying and reflecting on the key ingredients or factors central to the successful occurrence of 'quality contact'. Drawing on the literature reviewed, a framework consisting of four separate yet interrelated layers is presented in order to both identify and explore these dynamic factors that quality contact is dependent upon.

Link to abstract:

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0190740916302079>

Holt, S. (2016). 'Quality' contact post-separation/divorce: A review of the literature. Children and Youth Services Review.

Did He Ever Hit You? Exploring the Attitudes of Lawyers in the

Assessment of the Seriousness of Threats and Violent Histories in Domestic Violence Cases

Despite specific laws against intimate partner violence in most countries, women are significantly more likely than men to suffer from abuse, violence or to be murdered during or following personal relationships. If women survive often they do not disclose it to anyone including their lawyers. Nearly a third of people seeking assistance in family law disputes with complex issues make use of lawyers. Consequently lawyers need to be sensitive to signs of abusive or controlling relationships during client interviews and respond carefully to clients who report controlling behaviour by their former partner or who otherwise indicate there has been threats or actual violence in the past. Due to a diversity of views about domestic violence in society it is likely legal practitioners hold a range of beliefs on what constitutes the warning signs for serious domestic violence including risk of serious injury or death. This project provides a first empirical examination of the diversity of lawyers' perceptions of serious risk in domestic violence. It examines their views on what works best in determining risk and in the training of lawyers to determine risk in domestic violence practice.

Link to abstract:

http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2803720

James, C. G., & Ross, N. M. (2016). Did He Ever Hit You? Exploring the Attitudes of Lawyers in the Assessment of the Seriousness of Threats and Violent Histories in Domestic Violence Cases (Under Review). Exploring the Attitudes of Lawyers in the Assessment of the Seriousness of Threats and Violent Histories in Domestic Violence Cases (Under Review)(July 1, 2016).

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

What's happening around town

If you or your organisation has something to announce, pin it on the board! Submit an article for the notice board by emailing:

WA.FamilyPathwayNetwork@relationships.org.au

Family Court of Australia Resources for Children

The Family Court of Australia website has resources for children including a video which has been developed for kids aged 5-8 to explain what happens when they have to see a family consultant at the Court.

View the video [here](#).

Survey - Mothering in the context of intimate partner violence: Perceptions of Service Providers

Researchers on the project 'Mothering in the context of intimate partner violence: Perceptions of service providers' are seeking participants for their study on Australian domestic violence service providers' experiences regarding the effect of IPV on parenting stress.

Despite a general consensus that women who have experienced Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) experience high levels of parenting stress, only one study has been located that has examined the perceptions of service providers of mothering in the context of IPV. As parenting stress is one of the most consistent predictors of both parent and

child behaviour, the purpose of this study is to tap into Australian domestic violence service provider experience regarding the effect IPV has on parenting stress. Specifically, the researchers want to examine the relevance of overseas findings in research related to Australia, and to identify not only parenting difficulties and stressors but also the strengths that mothers bring to their situations where they have been victims of IPV. The researchers are interested in your perspective as a front-line worker who provides support to mothers who have been victims of IPV.

Find out more information on the study or participate [here](#).

National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Intervention

At WAFPN's 'Bringing perpetrators into view' conference back in December we had a quick look at the forthcoming National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Intervention. The full published National Outcome Standards can be viewed [here](#).

Practice Standards for Perpetrator Intervention: Engaging and Responding to Men who are Perpetrators of Family and Domestic Violence

Further to the National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Intervention, the Department of Child Protection and Family Support have released the WA

Practice Standards, which WA practitioners need to know. You can access the Practice Standards [here](#).

Homelessness in Western Australia Strategy Paper

In March the Department of Child Protection and Family Support released its Homelessness in WA Strategy Paper, which highlights that 42% of people access support for homelessness due to family and domestic violence. You can read the full paper [here](#).

Follow WAFPN on Twitter!

If you want to keep up to date with info and articles we find interesting, follow WAFPN on Twitter:

[@FamilyPathwayWA](https://twitter.com/FamilyPathwayWA)

FEEDBACK

If you have any suggestions on how we could improve this bulletin please email them to jane.azzopardi@relationships.org.au

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